Economic Collaboration with South Africa and Israel

6714. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish economic collaboration with South Affica and Israel; and

(b) if so, the areas indemnified or the agreements signed by the Government for establishment of such collaboration with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). It proposed to establish economic cooperation with Israel. While no agreement have been signed so far, some of the areas identified are agriculture, science and technology, medicine, civil aviation tourism.

Regarding trade relations with South Africa, India is a party to the decision taken at the Commonwealth Summit in Harare in October 1991, which declared that economic sanctions, including trade and investment measures, should be lifted when appropriate transitional mechanisms have been agreed which would enable all the parties to participate fully and effectively in negotiations. India will establish economic ties with South Africa when this stage has been reached.

Spray of Pesticides from Aeroplanes

6715. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pesticides are increasing being sprayed from aeroplane;

(b) the pesticides alongwith their quantities sprayed during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether any monitoring is dne on dangers caused due to spraying of these pesticides; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) and (d). Pesticides after evaluating their efficacy; and safety to human beings, animals, environment, etc. are approved for use. To avoid hazards, precautions like (i) marking of area for spraying; (ii) to exclude water sources and dense human habitation; (iii) informing public not less that 24 hours in advance of aerial operations; and (iv) preventing entry of animals and persons for specified period; are taken before/during aerial spraying, and hence no regular monitoring in such cases is generally required.

[*Translation*]

Banning of Lotteries

6716. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
PROF. K. V. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints regarding conduct of lotteries by private agencies without the approval of the competent authority have been received by the Union Government;

(b) whether any requests for banning the lotteries being run by the States have

also been received by the States have also been received by the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government to (a) and (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Such complaints are occasionally received.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) So far as private lotteries are concerned they fall within the purview of State Government. The Central Government issued guidelines in 1984 to all the State Government regarding regulation of lotteries run by them. However, the complaints received are sent to the State Government for appropriate action.

Decrease in Number of Farmers

6717. KUMAR UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of farmers in the rural areas has decreased as per the 1990-91 census whereas the number of land-holding has increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). 1990-91 Agricultural Census has not been completed as yet.

Price of Indigenous/Imported Fertilizer

6718. SHRI PHOOL VERMA:
SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of indigenous fertilizers are costlier than imported fertilizers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to equate the price of indigenous fertilizers with imported fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No. Sir. For every fertilizer covered under the statutory price control, the consumer price of indigenous as well as imported fertilizers is the same.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Production of Pistols and Revolvers

6719. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to go in for indigenous production of pistols and revolvers in order to bring down their prices so as to enable the common man to purchase them for security purpose; and

(b) if so, the time by which such production is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M.